

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for quantitatively and/or qualitatively detecting one or more components in one or more samples, said component capable of binding to a probe, comprising the steps in the following order:

a) applying onto a solid support

i) one or more samples comprising components to be detected or

ii) one or more probes ~~onto a solid support~~,

b) incubating the solid support of step a) with:

i) one or more tagged probes, in the case where the solid support has one or more samples comprising components to be detected applied thereon, or

ii) tag-labeled sample comprising tag-labeled components to be detected, in the case where the solid support has one or more probes applied thereon, said incubating followed by a wash step,

c) incubating the solid support with a monoclonal or polyclonal antibody directed against the tag of step b), said antibody raised in species A and said antibody is labeled with metal particles of average diameter between 0.6 nm and 40 nm, followed by a wash step,

d) incubating the solid support with an antibody conjugate, said conjugate comprising:

- one or more antibodies, anti-A, directed against immunoglobulins of species A,

-one or more antibodies, anti-B, directed against immunoglobulins of species B, said incubating followed by a wash step,

e) incubating the solid support with a polypeptide capable of recognition by anti-B antibodies, said polypeptide labeled with one or more substances which directly or indirectly cause a quantitative color change compared with the solid support, ~~and~~

f) incubating the solid support with a metal enhancement reagent, and

g) reading the solid support to quantitatively and/or qualitatively detect said components.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein step a) comprises applying one or more probes onto a solid support, and step b) comprises incubating solid supports with tag-labeled sample.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein step b) comprises incubating the solid supports with the tag-labeled sample comprising components to be detected and wherein said antibody in step c) comprises a metal-particle-labeled anti-component monoclonal or polyclonal antibody, said antibody raised in species A.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps, after step e), of:

e-1) repeating steps d) to e), and

e-2) optionally repeating step e-1).

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2 wherein the solid support is supplied with probe pre-applied, and step a) is not performed by the user.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the reading of step g) comprises the use of a color chart.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the reading of step g) comprises the use of a device suitable for detecting changes in conductance and/or current across the solid support at the positions at which said samples are applied.

8-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said tag is biotin.
29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said polypeptide capable of recognition by anti-B antibodies is labeled with gold particles and/or alkaline phosphatase.
30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing the solid support of step a) at a temperature between 0 and 10 degrees Celsius.
31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the antibody conjugate further comprises one or more substances which directly or indirectly cause a quantitative color change compared with the solid support.
32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising incubating the solid support with a color change reagent that is a suitable substrate of an enzyme attached to the antibody conjugate polymer after step f).
33. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the metal particle is gold.